

24. **(Twice Amended)** The composition of claim 2, wherein said delivery agent is a virus of said viral vector.

26. **(Amended)** The composition of claim 24, wherein said viral vector contains a nucleic acid encoding a recombinant gene product.

29. **(Amended)** A gene delivery system for transducing cells, comprising: a coacervate microsphere encapsulating at least a nucleic acid and a delivery agent for facilitating intracellular delivery of said nucleic acid, wherein upon contact of cells with said coacervate microsphere, controlled release of said nucleic acid results in transduction of the cells by said nucleic acid.

30. **(Amended)** A method for delivering a nucleic acid into a cell, comprising: contacting a cell with a composition comprising a coacervate, wherein:

i. said coacervate incorporates a nucleic acid contained in a transfer vector having at least one regulatory element;

ii. said coacervate comprises a cationic molecule and an anionic molecule other than said nucleic acid;

iii. said coacervate is a microsphere; and,

iv. said coacervate incorporates a delivery agent,

wherein said contacting of a cell with said composition results in controlled release of said transfer vector in the cell.

32. **(Amended)** The method of claim 31, wherein the nucleic acid encodes a therapeutic agent, the cells are in a host and are transfected with the nucleic acid and express the therapeutic agent, and said agent produces a therapeutically beneficial response in said host.

37. **(Twice Amended)** The coacervate microsphere of claim 36, wherein said virus comprises a recombinant virus.

41. **(Amended)** The method of claim 40, wherein said coacervates consist essentially of microspheres.